

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of using a surgical cable system comprising the steps of:

a) providing a surgical cable having a free end and a permanent clamp on the other end[[,]] ;

b) looping said cable around skeletal bones, passing said free end through said permanent clamp[[,]] ;

c) passing said free end through a provisional clamp, said provisional clamp constructed and arranged to automatically permit passage of said cable in one direction[[,]] ;

d) passing said free end through a manually operated tensioner[[,]] ;

e) manipulating said tensioner to put tension on said cable [[and]] to draw said free end through said permanent clamp and said provisional clamp reducing said loop, ~~said provisional clamp automatically permitting passage of said cable in one direction ;~~

f) operating a manually actuated stop in said permanent clamp when said bones are in a predetermined spatial relationship,

whereby said ~~cable is crimped and~~ manually actuated stop fixes the size of said loop ~~is set~~ and said skeletal bones are fixed in said predetermined relationship.

2. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method of claim 1 wherein the step of manipulating said tensioner further ~~comprising~~ comprises sequentially manipulating said tensioner to ~~release~~ increase said tension on said cable[[,]] by sequentially moving said tensioner along said cable toward said permanent clamp and re-applying tension on said cable to draw said free end through said permanent clamp and further reduce said loop.

3. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method of claim 2 further comprising the [[steps]] step of removing said tensioner from said cable prior to operating a manually actuated stop in said permanent clamp, whereby said provisional clamp maintains the tension placed on said cable by said tensioner.

4. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method of claim 3 further comprising the steps of actuating said manually actuated stop in said permanent clamp, manually releasing said tension on said cable maintained by [[in]] said provisional clamp and removing said

provisional clamp from said cable.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) A surgical cable system for forming a loop about bones and fixing the bones in a spatial relationship comprising a surgical cable with a permanent clamp on one end and a free end, said permanent clamp having a cable bore for accepting said free end of said cable, said permanent clamp including a manually actuated stop in said cable bore, said manually actuated stop having a first position permitting advancement of said free end through said cable bore in either an advancement or retrograde direction and a second position permitting advancement and preventing retrograde movement of said cable.

7. (Currently amended) [[A]] The surgical cable system of claim 6 comprising a lateral bore intersecting said cable bore, a mandrel [[ins]] in said lateral bore adapted to expand radially and [[said]] a stop slidably connected to an internal bore of said mandrel, whereby said stop expands a portion of said mandrel engaging said cable to prevent retrograde of said cable.

8. (Currently amended) [[A]] The surgical cable system of claim 6 comprising a multifilament cable.

9. (Currently amended) [[A]] The surgical cable system of claim 8 comprising approximately 100 to 150 filaments twisted to define a cable of great flexibility.

10. (Currently amended) [[A]] The surgical cable system of claim 6 ~~comprising~~ including a provisional clamp, said provisional clamp having a bore therethrough for accepting said free end of said cable beyond said permanent clamp, said bore including a mechanism for contacting said cable to permit advancement of said free end and to prevent retrograde movement thereof.

11. (Currently amended) [[A]] The surgical cable system of claim 10 comprising a slot connected to said provisional clamp bore, a roller bearing in said slot, said roller bearing spring biased to obstruct said bore.

12. (Currently amended) [[A]] The surgical cable system of claim 10 comprising a tensioner instrument for engaging said free end of said cable beyond said provisional clamp, said instrument including

a shaft with a cable guide for receiving said free end of said cable and a handle end, a cable chuck for grasping said free end of said cable between said handle end and said guide, said cable chuck slidably mounted on said shaft, said cable chuck adapted to grasp said free end of said cable as said chuck slides toward said handle end.

13. (Currently amended) [[A]] The surgical cable system of claim 12 ~~comprising a clutch mechanism connected to wherein~~ said cable chuck includes a clutch mechanism, said clutch mechanism moving in a reciprocating manner with said cable chuck, said clutch mechanism constructed and arranged to grasp said cable during rearward movement of said chuck and release said cable during forward motion of said chuck to allow said cable to pass freely through said chuck ~~to release said grasp of said cable chuck.~~

14. (Currently amended) [[A]] The surgical cable system of claim 12 comprising pivoting hand grips attached at said handle end to said cable chuck and said shaft whereby manipulation of said handgrips slides said cable chuck in a reciprocating manner relative to said shaft.

15. (Currently amended) [[A]] The surgical cable system of claim 12 comprising said cable guide adapted to engage said mechanism on said provisional clamp and release said contact with said cable whereby said provisional clamp may be removed from said cable.

16. (Currently amended) [[A]] The surgical cable system of claim 9 comprising a tensioner instrument for engaging said free end of said cable beyond said permanent clamp, said instrument including a shaft with a guide for receiving said free end of said cable and a handle end, a cable chuck for grasping said free end of said cable beyond said guide, said cable chuck slidably mounted on said shaft, said cable chuck adapted to grasp said free end of said cable as said chuck slides toward said handle end.

17. (Currently amended) [[A]] The surgical cable system of claim 6 comprising a tensioner slidably connected to said free end of said cable, said tensioner having a shaft with a cable guide on one end and a cable chuck on the other, said cable extending through said cable guide, said chuck having a passage intersected by a spring loaded clutch, said cable passing through said passage, said clutch constructed and arranged to engage said cable during a tensioning movement of said chuck and release said cable for free

movement through said chuck during a non-tensioning movement of said chuck obstructing said passage and preventing movement of said cable.

18. (Currently amended) A surgical cable system for forming a loop about bones and fixing the bones in a spatial relationship comprising a cable having a permanent clamp at one end and a free end, a cable bore in said permanent clamp through which said free end passes forming a loop, a manually actuated stop in said cable bore movable between an unlocked position permitting said free end of said cable to slide reducing said loop and a locked position preventing retrograde movement of said free end of said cable, a provisional clamp having a bore therethrough, said bore aligned with said cable bore, said bore including a mechanism contacting said free end of said cable to permit reduction of said loop and preventing retrograde movement of said cable, and a tensioner having a shaft with a guide and a handle spaced therefrom, said free end of said cable extending through said guide, a cable chuck slidably attached to said shaft near said handle, said free end of said cable extending through said cable chuck, said cable chuck grasping said cable whereby said free end of said cable is moved as said cable chuck slides toward said handle.

19. (Currently amended) [[A]] The surgical cable system of claim 18 comprising a multifilament cable.

20. (Currently amended) [[A]] The surgical cable system of claim 18 comprising said provisional clamp in contact with said permanent clamp with said provisional clamp bore aligned with said aperture cable bore and said provisional clamp in contact with said working shaft end of said tensioner.

21. (Currently amended) [[A]] The surgical cable system of claim 18 comprising pivoting hand grips on said handle attached to said shaft and said cable chuck, manipulation of said handgrips sliding said cable chuck along said shaft.

22. (Currently amended) [[A]] The surgical cable system of claim 18 comprising said chuck adapted to cooperate with said mechanism to permit retrograde movement of said cable to remove said provisional clamp from said cable.

23. (Currently amended) [[A]] The surgical cable system of claim 18 comprising a clutch arm on said cable chuck, manipulation of said clutch arm releasing said grasp and permitting removal of said



tensioner from said cable.

24. (New) The surgical cable system of claim 6 wherein said stop traverses along a substantially linear path to engage said cable for preventing motion thereof.